

NATIONAL
☐ NORTHERN ROCKIES CHAPTER

☐ PNW CHAPTER

☐ REGION 5 CHAPTER

☐ NATIONAL CONTRACT RESOURCES CHAPTER

☐ GREAT BASIN CHAPTER

☐ REGION 8 CHAPTER

☐ REGION 2 CHAPTER



The National Wildfire Suppression Association
preserving and protecting our environment

Received & Inspected

MAR 17 2017

FCC Mail Room

Date: 3/8/2017

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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
45 12th Street SW
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 10-4

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The National Wildfire Suppression Association represents over 225 companies across the United States that perform emergency response to wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters. Our companies employ up to 10,000 folks annually to perform these services.

In this emergency response field communications are key to the safety of our employees and those working around us.

As a lot of our work is in remote areas often time especially for work involving wildland fire suppression, it is very important that we have the capability to utilize all resources available to ensure that we maintain communications.

Because of the FCC Rules adopted in 2017 it is now preventing some of our businesses that perform emergency work from utilizing such devices – often have to opt for poor coverage rather than purchasing unnecessary, more expensive alternatives.

We would ask that the FCC issue a further notice of proposed rulemaking to eliminate the personal-use restriction entirely, replacing it with a multi-provider registration requirement. In the case of our type of services unreliable cellular service can threaten public safety, and the safety of our employees.

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We believe that the issue could be resolved by striking the phrase "personal use" from 20.21 of the Commission's rules.

This would then treat broadband boosters the same as microcells, which the FCC currently allows for personal and business use.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Miley", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Deborah Miley
Executive Director

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